



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE INDICTED IN MULTI-STATE CONSPIRACY INCLUDING VICTIMS IN LEE'S SUMMIT, PLEASANT HILL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Chicago, Ill., residents and a Michigan resident were indicted by a federal grand jury for their role in a conspiracy to defraud victims of more than \$400,000.

Bryan C. Barnett, 27, of Chicago, Ill., **Douglass Patterson**, 52, of Michigan, and **Norman Demma**, 68, also of Chicago, were charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Barnett**, **Patterson** and **Demma** conspired to defraud several individuals and businesses by falsely making wire transfers via telephone to illegally obtain money that was charged to the victims' Citibank credit card accounts. The indictment alleges that the conspiracy took place between approximately March 27, 2003, and Feb. 14, 2004.

The indictment alleges that **Barnett** facilitated the scheme to defraud individual Citibank credit card holders and businesses that served as Western Union agents. The indictment alleges that the total amount of loss or intended loss in this case was between \$400,000 and \$1 million and that the fraud involved 10 or more victims.

In targeting individual Citibank card holders, **Barnett** and his co-conspirators would call Western Union and pose as a credit card holder and request a money transfer. Prior to making the call, the co-conspirators would make arrangements to forward the victim's home telephone line to a location they occupied. In doing so, the co-conspirators were able to answer the victim's telephone when Western Union called back to verify the wire transfer. In targeting businesses serving as a Western Union agent, **Barnett** and his co-conspirators would call Western Union posing as an employee of the agent and initiate fraudulent wire transfers that would be picked up

by a member of the conspiracy.

In facilitating this scheme to defraud, **Barnett** represented himself as a fraud early warning (FEW) employee of the Citibank credit card company in order to obtain information about Citibank credit card holders. At other times, **Barnett** represented himself to be various Citibank credit card holders requesting a money transfer that would be charged to their Citibank credit card. At still other times, **Barnett** represented himself as a Western Union employee who was contacting a business regarding a particular Western Union account.

Through these methods, the co-conspirators were able to obtain information regarding individual credit card holders and businesses in Missouri, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, California, Idaho, Indiana, Texas, New York, Iowa, South Dakota, Oklahoma and Utah, the indictment alleges. Among many victims, the co-conspirators defrauded several in the Western District of Missouri, including individuals in Lee's Summit, Pleasant Hill, and businesses in Columbia.

In facilitating the scheme, the co-conspirators often possessed and had made fraudulent identification cards (most often driver's licenses) in the payee's name, but with a photograph of one of the co-conspirators on the card.

The indictment alleges that **Patterson** and **Demma** falsely represented themselves to be various individuals listed as the "payee" on several Western Union money transfers picked up throughout the United States.

Counts Two through Nine of the federal indictment allege specific instances in which **Barnett**, **Patterson** and **Demma** carried out the scheme to defraud victims and businesses.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow